

INITIATIVE NO!

*The Initiative sponsored by the California Real Estate Association is a Constitutional Amendment.
If it passes...*

➤ { Almost ALL of California's Civil Rights laws, not just
the Rumford Fair Housing Act, will be Unconstitutional! }

➤ { The California Legislature will not be able to pass any
more such Laws in the future! }

Register and Vote

against this JIM CROW Amendment!

*Don't let our hard-won progress
go down the drain!*

Background

For generations, California banks, real estate interests, and local, state, and federal governments and agencies had used “red-lining,” and other racially discriminatory housing policies to confine nonwhites to urban ghettos and bar them from white-only neighborhoods and white-only suburbs with their better-funded public schools.

In 1963, pressure from the Civil Rights Movement caused California to enact the Rumford Fair Housing Act. Also known as the California Fair Housing Act, it outlawed racial discrimination in the sale or rental of public assisted housing accommodations and in any private dwelling containing more than four units (i.e. apartment and condo buildings).

Financed by the real estate industry, in 1964 supporters of residential segregation used the initiative process to submit a constitutional amendment overturning the Rumford Act so that property owners and landlords could legally discriminate on racial or ethnic grounds when selling or renting homes, apartments, and condos. Known as Proposition 14, their effort to restore segregation was fiercely opposed by the Civil Rights Movement. In November 1964, Proposition 14 passed overwhelmingly with 65% of the vote.

In 1966, the California Supreme Court voted 5-2 to declare Proposition 14 unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld their decision in 1967. Passage of the federal Fair Housing Act in 1968 then superseded any further California state-level efforts to make residential segregation legal.